

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,540

Examiner

Ja-Na Hines

Applicant(s)

TACHINO, ATSUSHI

Art Unit

1645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 19, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4 and 5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment Entry

1. The amendment filed December 19, 2005 has been entered. The examiner acknowledges the amendments to the specification. Claims 1, 4-5, 6, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 3 and 6-11 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are under consideration in this office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daniel Evans on March 14, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A pretreatment kit for saliva comprising

(A) an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide having a concentration of 0.01 to 10 mol/L,

(B) an aqueous solution of tartaric acid and/or citric acid having a concentration of 0.01 to 3 mol/L, and

Art Unit: 1645

(C) a nonionic surface active agent and/or an amphoteric surface active agent, the component (C) being mixed with at least one of the components (A) and (B), or being provided separately from the components (A) and (B), and at least one substance selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate and manganese sulfate being contained in at least one of the components (A), (B) and (C) in an amount of 5 to 25% by weight, wherein at least one of (A) and (C) is capable of removing aggregation caused by mucin or chain formation of *Streptococci mutans* in saliva.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A pretreatment kit for saliva as claimed in claim 1, further comprising wherein (D) tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane which is mixed with at least one of the components (A), (B) and (C).

Claims 3 and 6-11 are cancelled.

Withdrawal of Rejections

3. The following rejections have been withdrawn in view of applicants' amendments:
- a) The objection of claims 4-5;
 - b) The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; and
 - c) The rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al., in view of Ha et al.

Allowable Subject Matter


4. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ja-Na Hines whose telephone number is 571-272-0859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette Smith can be reached on 571-272-0864. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ja-Na Hines 
March 14, 2006


LYNETTE R. F. SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600